

REPORT

NATIVE PAPERS

Week ending the 4th January 1896.

CONTENTS:

	Page.		Page.
I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.		(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation—	
Nil.		The timing of a train on the Dacca-Mymensingh Railway ...	10
II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.		Absence of good village roads in Vikrampur in the Dacca district ...	11
(a)—Police—		The Government's new embankment policy ...	ib
Badmashes in the 24-Parganas ...	6	The silting up of the Bhairab ...	ib
Police oppression in the North-Western Provinces ...	ib	(h)—General—	
A case of police oppression in Porabarhi in the Tangail subdivision of the Mymensingh district ...	ib	Sir Alexander Mackenzie ...	ib
Dacoities in Rajhat in the Hooghly district ...	ib	Sir Alexander Mackenzie ...	12
(b)—Working of the Courts—		The new Lieutenant-Governor ...	ib
Mr. Earle and the apprentices in the Mymensingh Magistracy ...	6	Sir Alexander Mackenzie ...	ib
An irascible Subordinate Judge ...	ib	Sir Alexander Mackenzie and the Musalmans of Bengal ...	13
The civil and criminal judiciary of Dacca ...	ib	Corruption of Government officers and jobberies in Government offices ...	ib
Mr. K. M. Chatterji's appointment as Officiating Second Judge of the Calcutta Small Cause Court ...	ib	Mr. Kennedy, District Magistrate and Collector, Murshidabad ...	ib
Honorary Magistrates in Berhampore ...	ib	Begar work in the Sonthal Parganas ...	ib
Mr. Grierson and the <i>Hitavadi</i> ...	ib	The new Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal ...	ib
Urdu as the Court language in the North-Western Provinces ...	7	The new Lieutenant-Governor ...	ib
The officiating arrangement in the Calcutta Small Cause Court ...	ib	The new Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal ...	14
The Rajshahi school-boys' case ...	ib	Leave to Civilians in the mufassal to attend the Civil Service Dinner ...	ib
Mr. Faulder, District Magistrate and Collector of Dacca ...	8	III.—LEGISLATIVE.	
The Court language in the North-Western Provinces Officiating arrangement in the Calcutta Small Cause Court ...	ib	The Jury Bill ...	ib
(c)—Education—		The Copyright Act ...	ib
Jobbery in the Education Department ...	9	IV.—NATIVE STATES.	
The Campbell Medical School and Hospital ...	ib	The Maharaja Holkar ...	ib
The <i>Manimanjari</i> ...	ib	V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.	
(d)—Jails—		Nil.	
Nil.		VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.	
(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration—		Village sanitation ...	ib
The Munshiganj Local Board and communications in Vikrampur ...	9	The craze for titles ...	15
Water scarcity in the mufassal ...	10	A Hindu woman outraged by a European soldier ...	ib
Roads in the village of Birasimul in the Burdwan district ...	ib	The Christian Missionaries ...	ib
Zamindars and Local Self-Government ...	ib	Recommendations for the New Year's Day honours ...	ib
The Sanitary Commissioner, Bengal, on water-supply in Burdwan ...	ib	A cooly case ...	ib
(f)—Questions affecting the land—		The loss of the Indian's national dignity—its cause ...	16
Nil.		The British Government in India ...	17
		The prevailing unhealthiness in the country ...	ib
		Missionary work India ...	ib
		The Queen's Proclamation ...	18
		URDU PAPERS.	
		Nil.	
		ANGLICAN PAPERS.	
		Nil.	

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
BENGALI					
<i>Tri-monthly.</i>					
1	"Abodh Bodhini" ...	Calcutta ...	About 677		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Banganivasi" ...	Ditto ...	" 5,000	27th December 1895.	
2	"Bangavasi" ...	Ditto ...	" 20,000	28th ditto.	
3	"Hitaishi" ...	Ditto ...	"	31st ditto.	
4	"Hitavadi" ...	Ditto ...	" 4,000	27th ditto.	
5	"Kumari Patrika" ...	Ditto ...	"		
6	"Mihir-o-Sudhakar" ...	Ditto ...	"	28th ditto.	
7	"Sahachar" ...	Ditto ...	About 500	25th ditto.	
8	"Samay" ...	Ditto ...	" 4,000	27th ditto.	
9	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto ...	" 3,000	28th ditto.	
10	"Som Prakash" ...	Ditto ...	" 800	23rd ditto.	
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Banga Vidya Prakashika" ...	Ditto ...	" 200	24th, 27th, and 30th December 1895.	
2	"Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika." ...	Ditto ...	" 200	25th, 26th and 29th to 31st December 1895 and 1st and 2nd January 1896.	
3	"Samvad Prabhakar" ...	Ditto ...	" 500		
4	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto ...	" 200		
5	"Sulabh Dainik" ...	Ditto ...	" 1,000	27th 28th, 30th and 31st December 1895.	
HINDI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto ...	" 800	26th December 1895.	
2	"Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Ditto ...	" 9,000	30th ditto.	
3	"Uchit Vakta" ...	Ditto ...	"		
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Dainik Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto ...	"	24th, 27th, 28th and 29th December 1895.	
PERSIAN.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Hublul Mateen" ...	Calcutta ...	"		
URDU.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide." ...	Ditto ...	About 400	26th December 1895.	
2	"General and Gauhariasfi" ...	Ditto ...	" 300		
BENGALI.					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura ...	" 500		
2	"Ulubaria Darpan" ...	Ulubaria ...	" 298		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan ...	350 to 400	31st December 1895.	
2	"Chinsura Vartavaha" ...	Chinsura ...	500	29th ditto.	
3	"Darsak" ...	Ditto ...	"	29th ditto.	
4	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	754	27th ditto.	

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
BENGALI.					
Monthly.					
1	"Ghosak" ...	Khulna ...	350		
Weekly.					
1	"Murshidabad Hitaishi" ...	Murshidabad ...	280	25th December 1895.	
2	"Murshidabad Pratinidhi" ...	Berhampore ...	200	27th ditto.	
3	"Pratihar" ...	Ditto ...	603	27th ditto.	
URIYA.					
Monthly.					
1	"Brahma" ...	Cuttack ...	.....	
2	"Indradhanu" ...	Ditto ...	.....	
3	"Shikshabandhu" ...	Ditto ...	.....	
4	"Utkalprabha" ...	Mayurbhanj ...	.....	.....	Only six copies have been issued since the paper was received in January 1894. Some 200 copies of each issue are said to have been circulated, but no subscribers have been registered.
Weekly.					
1	"Sambalpur Hitaishini" ...	Bamra in the Central Provinces.	.....	.....	This paper is said to have some circulation in the Division, but the number of subscribers could not be ascertained.
2	"Samvad Vahika" ...	Balasore ...	190		
3	"Uriya and Navasamvad" ...	Ditto ...	309		
4	"Utkal Dipika" ...	Cuttack ...	412		
HINDI.					
Monthly.					
1	"Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipur ...	500	October and November 1895.	
Weekly.					
1	"Aryavarta" ...	Dinapur ...	1,000		
URDU.					
Weekly.					
1	"Akhbar-i-Al Punch" ...	Bankipur ...	500		
2	"Gaya Punch" ...	Gaya ...	400	23rd December 1895.	
3	"Mehre Monawar" ...	Muzaffarpur ...	150		
BENGALI.					
Weekly.					
1	"Bagura Darpan" ...	Bogra ...	.....	
2	"Hindu Ranjika" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi ...	283	25th December 1895.	
3	"Rangpur Diprakash" ...	Kakina, Rangpur ...	300		
HINDI.					
Monthly.					
1	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika."	Darjeeling ...	150		It is said that 550 copies of the paper are printed each month. Out of this number 150 copies are distributed among the subscribers, and the rest sold to the public at three pies per copy.
BENGALI.					
Fortnightly.					
1	"Kasipur Nivasi" ...	Kasipur, Barisal ...	280	29th December 1895.	
Weekly.					
1	"Charu Mihir" ...	Mymensingh ...	900	24th December 1895.	
2	"Dacca Prakash" ...	Dacca ...	450	29th ditto.	
3	"Saraswat Patra" ...	Do. ...	250	24th ditto.	
4	"Vikrampur" ...	Lauhajangha, Dacca ...	500	26th ditto.	

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
1	ENGLISH AND BENGALI. <i>Weekly.</i> "Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca ...	500	30th December 1895.	
1	BENGALI. <i>Fortnightly.</i> "Tripura Prakash" ...	CHITTAGONG DIVISION. Comilla ...	.....	
1	<i>Weekly.</i> "Sansodhini" ...	Chittagong ...	120		
1	BENGALI. <i>Fortnightly.</i> "Paridarshak-o-Srihattavasi"	ASSAM. Sylhet ...	.....	

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

A correspondent of the *Sahachar* of the 25th December complains of the oppressions which are committed upon passers-by by a number of *badmashes* near the Durgapur bridge on the Diamond Harbour Road, south of Kidderpore. Within the last four or five years several dead bodies were found floating in the canal near the bridge. Lately one night, Babu Chandi Charan Mukharji of Barisa was returning from office at about 8 or 9 P.M. by this road, when he was attacked by two *badmashes*, who searched his clothes for money, and only let him off when they found nothing on his person. On the day following the above occurrence the *badmashes* attacked a hackney coachman and damaged his coach. A few days after they attacked a shop-keeper who was passing by with some money, and after beating him severely, took from him all the money he had with him. It is hoped the District Superintendent of Police, 24-Parganas, will check these oppressions.

SAHACHAR,
Dec. 25th, 1895.

2. The people of the North-Western Provinces, says the *Bharat Mitra* of the 26th December, have almost been exasperated by police oppression. A check should be put upon the high-handedness of the police by effecting police reform. It is hoped that Sir Antony MacDonnell, whose kindness towards the natives deserves the gratitude of the entire population of the North-Western Provinces, will rid them of this oppression.

BHARAT MITRA,
Dec. 26th, 1895.

3. The *Sanjivani* of the 28th December brings to the notice of the authorities a case of police oppression in Porabarhi in the Tangail sub-division of the Mymensingh district.

SANJIVANI,
Dec. 28th, 1895.

A case of police oppression in Porabarhi in the Tangail sub-division of the Mymensingh district. In Porabarhi there is an office of Ralli Brothers where Babu Hemendralal Guha is their sub-agent. On the 11th October last, one Ganesh Majhi lodged a complaint at the Tangail police-station stating that one of his boats having been engaged by the office, he had asked its *dalal*, Lal Bihari Saha, whether he would pay him the fare. The latter declined to pay the fare, and a Babu had several bales of jute forced into the boat and struck the complainant ablow. The sub-inspector of the police-station, Babu Aditya Nath Haldar, at once held a local inquiry and instructed one of his friends, Babu Sasi Kanta Maitra, to demand something by way of illegal gratification from Hemendra Babu. Hemendra Babu did not decline to pay the money demanded, but said that he must have a receipt in case he made the payment. Thus foiled in his attempt to secure a bribe, the redoubtable police sub-inspector at once resolved to vent his wrath on the innocent sub-agent of Ralli Brothers. On the 12th October, he surrounded the office room of Ralli Brothers at Porabarhi with a police force of 150 chaukidars and 8 or 10 constables. Hemendra Babu remained confined in the room for the whole day. Late in the evening he was admitted to bail and prosecuted under sections 224, 225 and 353 of the Indian Penal Code. Four cross-cases arose out of these incidents:—

- (1) Ganesh Majhi *versus* Hemendra Babu.
- (2) Ralli Brothers *versus* Ganesh Majhi for breach of contract.
- (3) The police *versus* Hemendra Babu.
- (4) Hemendra Babu *versus* the police.

In the first case Hemendra Babu was fined Rs. 15. In the second case Ganesh Majhi had to pay damages amounting to Rs. 5-8, and in the third case Hemendra Babu was acquitted. The case against the Police was dismissed.

It is in this way that the police in this country is encouraged in its wrong doing. Offending police officers are never punished. It is to be expected that the new Lieutenant-Governor will not allow this state of things to continue.

4. Annada Prasad Ghosal, writing from Rajhat in the Hooghly district, in the *Bangavasi* of the 28th December, says that in the course of three months there have taken place as many as five dacoities in Rajhat and the neighbouring villages in the Hooghly district. In all these cases the dacoits mustered strong, did violence to the inmates of the houses they broke into, and carried

BANGAVASI,
Dec. 28th, 1895.

Dacoities in Rajhat in the Hooghly district.

away a large amount of property in money and valuables. In none of these cases, strange to say, have the offenders been detected or punished.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

CHARU MIHIR,
Dec. 24th, 1895.

5. The *Charu Mihir* of the 24th December says that Mr. Earle's order transferring all old apprentices in the district office from the Sadar to the subdivisions will entail great hardship upon these poor men, many of whom hold officiating appointments in the Sadar, and almost all of whom live in the Sadar with their relatives and have therefore to incur no expense on account of board and lodging. These apprentices will not also be allowed under this new order to fill any officiating vacancies. It is true Mr. Earle promises them the first chance in the case of every permanent vacancy, but who shall say that Mr. Earle's promise will be fulfilled by his successor?

CHARU MIHIR.

6. The same paper has heard a good deal about display of temper in Court by Babu Barada Prasanna Som; Additional Subordinate Judge of Mymensingh. The other day, in the course of the hearing of a partition suit, he grew so furious and bawled out so loud that all present in his Court were actually frightened. It is to be hoped that in future Babu Barada Prasanna will pay due regard to his own age and position in his behaviour towards suitors.

VIKRAMPUR,
Dec. 26th, 1895.

7. The *Vikrampur* of the 26th December draws attention to the inadvisability of retaining the present civil and criminal judiciary of Dacca in that district, inasmuch as most of them are natives of the district. The existing arrangement is likely to interfere with an impartial administration of justice; and though the Press has been pointing out the danger for some time, the authorities seem determined not to listen to its representations.

SULABH DAINIK,
Dec. 27th, 1895.

8. Referring to the appointment of Mr. K. M. Chatterjee, third Judge of the Calcutta Small Cause Court, as the officiating second Judge of that Court in the place of Mr. Ormond on leave, the *Sulabh Dainik* of the 27th December observes that had Sir Charles Elliott been still the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, some favourite outsider would have surely been pitchforked into the vacant post. But the new Lieutenant-Governor is a man of a different stamp, and the public should feel grateful to him for this his act of justice to a deserving public servant.

PRATIKAR,
Dec. 27th, 1895.

9. The *Pratihar* of the 27th December regrets to notice that complaints have been lately heard against the manner in which many Honorary Magistrates in Berhampore discharge their duties. In filling up the vacancy caused by Rai Hare Krishna Mazumdar Bahadur's death care should therefore be taken to appoint a worthy man to the local Honorary Bench.

SAMAY,
Dec. 27th, 1895.

10. The *Samay* of the 27th December has the following on Mr. Grierson :—

Mr. Grierson and the *Hitavadi*.

The *Hitavadi* takes Mr. Grierson, Magistrate and Collector of Howrah, severely to task for what it regards as shortcomings of a serious nature on his part. A serious indictment brought forward by that paper against Mr. Grierson is that, at his instance, Mr. N. C. Bannerji, Deputy Magistrate of Howrah, fined three men Rs 3 each for spitting in the court-room. We do not understand why this lenient sentence should so much upset our contemporary. It is the habit of some men to disfigure their own houses, and more frequently the houses of other persons by spitting at the walls and otherwise making them soiled and dirty. Most of these men are ignorant and uneducated; and dirtiness has become almost a second nature with them. They are not amenable to reason or rebuke; and nothing is more likely to prevent them from spitting in court-rooms and other public places than the imposition of a small fine. They must be reached through their purse. Our contemporary also observes that when the pleader for the defence in the spitting case argued that it was informal to punish a man as soon as he had been arrested, the Deputy Magistrate said that the fine imposed on the accused was a trifling one, and they would not move the High Court for the setting aside of the sentence.

This is an extremely unreliable version of what took place in the Court. But even from this it is quite clear that the pleader for the defence could not question the validity of the sentence; he only questioned the validity of the procedure adopted in trying the case.

The next charge against Mr. Grierson is that he is very much opposed to arbitration, and takes the Deputy Magistrates to task for advising litigants in many cases to settle their disputes out of Court. This charge against Mr. Grierson is not well-founded, for it is well-known that the Deputy Magistrates of Howrah always try to have the disputes of litigants settled out of Court. In ninety cases out of a hundred an amicable settlement of differences is brought about, and it has never been known that Mr. Grierson has ever taken exception to such a procedure. We must thank the late Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, if this practice of settling disputes by arbitration is due to him.

That Mr. Grierson is a man of great impartiality and justice, and that he never fails to hold the scales evenly between a native and a European is a fact which no one can question. He has lately prosecuted some European mill-owners for keeping their mills working at night to the great disturbance of the public peace. Did a European Magistrate ever venture to prosecute Europeans for inconveniencing the native public? But this is not all. At a time when Europeans killing or injuring natives were being let off on some excuse or other, Mr. Grierson alone had the courage to send up a European charged with the murder of a native for trial, even though the evidence submitted by the police was unfortunately of a halting nature.

Mr. Grierson has up to this time done many acts which ought to endear him to the public. He tried his best to rid the Howrah courts of their pests, the touts. It is through his efforts that the Howrah people have at last got the benefit of a copious supply of filtered water. He is very much averse to compelling *pardanishin* women to attend court, and if a Deputy Magistrate happens to summon a *pardanishin* woman, Mr. Grierson is sure to override his decision if it is once brought to his notice.

It is a standing complaint against the Deputy Magistrates that they are in the habit of convicting prisoners without sufficient evidence simply to keep the higher authorities in humour. This evil is not in existence in Howrah. Mr. Grierson has strictly enjoined the police never to send up a case for trial without sifting it to the bottom. The number of police prosecutions has thus fallen in Howrah.

It is not, moreover, true that Mr. Grierson does not courteously conduct himself towards the pleaders and mukhtars. He generally treats them with great courtesy and forbearance. There can be no comparison in this respect between Mr. Grierson and Mr. Westmacott. They are as poles asunder.

11. The *Dainik Bharat Mitra* of the 26th December draws attention to the inconvenience which is suffered by suitors in the North-Western Provinces owing to the use of Urdu as the Court language. Sir Antony MacDonnell should favourably consider the memorials which have been submitted to him on the subject by the different public bodies in those provinces.

DAINIK BHARAT
MITRA,
Dec. 26th, 1895.

12. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 29th December says that everybody has been pleased at the arrangement made by Sir Alexander Mackenzie to fill up the officiating vacancy in the Calcutta Small Cause Court. It is hoped that the new Lieutenant-Governor will also take the first opportunity to restore to the Hindus their time-honoured privilege of having a Hindu Judge on the Bench of that court, a privilege of which they have been unjustly deprived by Sir Charles Elliott. Sir Charles Elliott more than once deprived Mr. K. M. Chatterji, the third Judge, of an officiating promotion to which he was entitled.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Dec. 29th, 1895.

13. The same paper says that the people of Rajshahi consider the sentence passed upon the four school-boys by Mr. N. K. Bose as unjust and not warranted by the evidence brought forward. Mr. Bose evidently tried to please both his European superiors and the native community. The European community and the European authorities have no doubt been satisfied, but Mr. Bose has not been able to please the native

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA.

community. It is hoped that Mr. Bose will not in future be instrumental in thus frustrating the ends of justice. Will Sir Alfred Croft, in connection with this case, consider the advisability of removing Mr. Livingstone from Rajshahi, inasmuch as that officer has incurred the displeasure of the native community of that place?

DACCA PRAKASH,
Dec. 29th, 1895

14. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 29th December has the following:—

Mr. Faulder, District Magistrate and Collector of Dacca.

Mr. Faulder, District Magistrate and Collector of Dacca, is innocent of Bengali, and the occupation of those mukhtars and revenue-agents who do not understand English is gone. The Magistrate does not understand the language in which these legal practitioners conduct their cases, and he, therefore, naturally comes to a hasty and not unfrequently wrong conclusion. The language of the witnesses being also unknown to him, Mr. Faulder has, so to speak, to try cases without evidence. This has proved a great source of loss and inconvenience to litigants. Miscarriage of justice has become very frequent of late in Dacca. Innocent people are being ruined, and the guilty often manage to get off scot-free. Those, of course, who have the means to engage English-knowing pleaders have the advantage of making their case intelligible to the Magistrate and have consequently the chance of getting justice. But few have the means to engage English-knowing pleaders, and the many who have not this means fail to get justice being done to them. It often happens that of the two parties in a case one has the means to engage English-knowing pleaders while the other has not. In such cases the pleader on the one side has the advantage of not only explaining his case to the Magistrate but also of misinterpreting with success the arguments of the mukhtar or revenue agent on the other side, and giving a wrong version of the deposition of the witnesses called by that unfortunate party. A Magistrate, thoroughly ignorant of Bengali, is sure to make a mess of affairs and commit blunders.

We have all along been prejudiced in favour of Mr. Faulder and have studiously ignored his faults and shortcomings. For we know for certain that the present Magistrate of Dacca is a man of great integrity and impartiality. He has given proof of his sense of justice in the Fordyce case, in his dealings with the Dacca District Board, and, lastly, in his treatment towards the Dacca people on the occasion of the last *Janmastami* procession, when he removed the elephants ridden by European ladies in order to secure the convenience and safety of the native crowd. It is very rare to get Magistrates in these days who can properly administer justice, and, impartial and upright as Mr. Faulder is, we took the miscarriages of justice committed under him for a necessary evil. But instances of failure of justice have now become numerous and intolerable, and the patience of the people has been tried to the utmost.

It is an open secret that Mr. Faulder does not do even a fourth part of his duties himself. Most part of his work is done by his Deputy, Babu Akhshay Kumar Sen. Most of the cases being thus tried by a Bengali Deputy Magistrate, the evil complained of has been minimised. But still a number of cases is tried by Mr. Faulder himself; and in these cases justice is very perfunctorily administered. Those who are well versed in the art of getting up and conducting false cases have a happy time of it in these days in Dacca, and truthful men who have a right cause of complaint have to go to the wall. It is earnestly to be expected that the Government will transfer Mr. Faulder and send a Bengali-knowing Magistrate to Dacca.

HINDI BANGAVASI
Dec. 30th, 1895.

15. The *Hindi Bangavasi* of the 30th December is glad that Sir Antony

The Court language in the North Western Provinces.

MacDonnell has promised to pay due regard to the movement which has been set on foot by various public bodies in the North-Western Provinces in order to get Hindi substituted for Urdu as the Court language in those provinces. Hindi is the language spoken by the majority of the population in those provinces.

HITAISHI
Dec. 31st, 1895.

16. The *Hitaishi* of the 31st December thanks Sir Alexander Mackenzie

Officiating arrangements in the Calcutta Small Cause Court.

and his Chief Secretary, Mr. Cotton, for the promotion of Mr. K. M. Chatterji to the temporary second Judgeship of the Calcutta Small Cause Court. It is true that under the new Small Cause Court Act this is the only proper

arrangement to make, still the public should feel grateful to the new Lieutenant-Governor for promoting the third Judge to the temporary second Judgeship instead of pitchforking an outsider into it.

(d)—Education.

17. The *Banganivasi* of the 27th December writes as follows about Rai Radhika Prasanna Mukharji Bahadur, Inspector of the Presidency Circle :—

BANGANIVASI,
Dec. 27th, 1895.

Jobbery in the Education Department.

(1) The Rai Bahadur, with the help of his Head Clerk, selects the text-books to be read in all the English schools in the Presidency Circle. The teachers in these schools have not the liberty to teach books of their own choice. The Inspector is, in adopting this practice, no doubt actuated by the solicitude to save his Deputy and Sub-Inspectors the trouble and worry of framing different sets of questions from different books for the students of the schools they have to inspect.

(2) It is a standing rule that no one should be appointed an examiner for the middle vernacular scholarship examination for more than two consecutive years. But in direct contravention of this rule the Head Clerk of the Inspector of the Presidency Circle has been appointed an examiner for six consecutive years.

(3) The Rai Bahadur has reduced the pay of the teachers in English schools, and is in the habit of appointing raw, inexperienced graduates in the place of the old and experienced teachers. This practice has prejudicially affected discipline in the schools. When a vacancy takes place in a school the Inspector of the Presidency Circle generally pitchforks a raw graduate into it instead of promoting a teacher of the lower form to the vacant post.

18. Sir Charles Elliott, says the *Samay* of the 27th December, observed, in the course of his speech on the occasion of opening the Lady Elliott Hostel, that newspaper criticisms against the management of the Campbell Hospital were baseless. The hospital arrangements were satisfactory, considering the funds at the disposal of the authorities and the class of patients admitted to the hospital. But may one ask, why have Assistant Surgeons been replaced by native doctors, while it is admitted that the funds at the disposal of the authorities have not diminished? Moreover, is it generous to urge that the patients who are accommodated in the hospital, being of the lower and poorer classes, arrangements for their treatment need not be of a superior order? It should not be the object in a hospital to provide the patients with bad or inferior medical treatment, and if the Government has not funds enough to pay for better arrangements as regards their medical treatment of the patients in the Campbell Hospital, it is better that it should abolish the institution.

SAMAY,
Dec. 27th, 1895.

19. Referring to the order passed by Babu Nilmani Nyayalankar discontinuing the study of his *Manimanjari* in the Sanskrit College, the *Hitavadi* of the 27th December thanks the Director of Public Instruction for not aiding his subordinate officer in carrying his point and thereby ruining that College. But the *Laghu Kaumudi*, which has been introduced in place of the *Manimanjari*, is an elementary grammatical treatise and therefore ill-fitted to supply the place of the *Mugdhabodh*. This repeated change of text-books in grammar, in quick succession, will be found prejudicial to the interests of the students. One instance will make this clear. Last year the boys of the 5th class were to have read the *Mugdhabodh* up to *pabat*. In the middle of the year the *Mugdhabodh* was replaced by the *Manimanjari*, which was read up to the declensions of the neuter nouns ending in vowels. And now after six months the *Manimanjari* has been replaced by the *Laghu Kaumudi*, from which the declensions of nouns are to be read during the year by the students of the 4th class. So the students of that class will have to read again the declensions of nouns which they have already read in the 5th and 6th classes from different books.

HITAVADI,
D c. 27th, 1895.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

20. The *Vikrampur* of the 26th December complains of the indifference shown by the Dacca District Board and the Munshiganj Local Board in not repairing the road which runs from Munshiganj to Srinagar and the rickety

VIKRAMPUR,
Dec. 26th, 1895.

The Munshiganj Local Board and communications in Vikrampur.

wooden bridges over it. The road, which is an important one, is passable only in winter. The road should be extended from Srinagar to Bhagyakul, and a canal for navigation purposes excavated through the heart of the Vikrampur pargana in order to facilitate the import of rice and paddy, as, without such import, prices in this part run very high from the month of *Paus* to that of *Jyaishta*. The reclamation of the old dried up khal from Haldia to Sholaghar may also serve the purpose.

BANGAVASI,
Dec. 28th, 1895.

21. The *Bangavasi* of the 28th December says that already in most of the districts in Bengal scarcity of water is being keenly felt. The road cess is levied ostensibly with the view of making roads in the mufassal and providing the mufassal people with a copious supply of drinking water. The District Boards have been entrusted with the levying and spending of the road cess, but these so-called self-governing bodies do not appear to be properly doing their duty by the tax payers. Wells, it is true are being dug here and there; but they are being dug mostly near the houses of the members and their friends and relations. The District Boards are not acquainted with the crying wants and grievances of the people, and have not the inclination to acquaint themselves with these. The discontent of the people is growing.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Dec. 28th, 1895.

22. A correspondent of the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 28th December complains that the roads in the village of Birasimul under the jurisdiction of the Jamalpur *thana* in the Burdwan district, are badly in need of repairs. The brickwork on these roads has been worn out and there have been formed ruts which try the patience and watchfulness of the passers-by to the utmost. It is simply impossible to drive carts and carriages along these roads. The people of the village have been regularly paying the road cess, but they do not know how it is being spent by the District Board. There is also a scarcity of pure water in the village. The water in the tanks and ponds is, so to speak, distilled poison and produces malaria and cholera. The District Board should make no delay in repairing the roads in the village and issuing notices to owners of foul and silted up tanks to get them reclaimed.

KASIPUR NIVASI,
Dec. 29th, 1895.

23. The *Kasipur Nivasi* of the 29th December urges the land-owners to take a more prominent part in the work of Local Self-Government. The zamindars fear to come into frequent contact with officials for fear of being compelled to put down their names in every subscription list. But they should shake off their lethargy and get the better of this fear. Their help is necessary to make Local Self-Government a success.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Dec. 31st, 1895.

24. The Sanitary Commissioner, Bengal, observes the *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 31st December, has reported that the Burdwan Municipality should not sanction house connection to the people of the town before making arrangements for the supply of filtered-water to the villages on the right side of the Banka under its jurisdiction. The Sanitary Commissioner's contention is no doubt justifiable, but it is almost impracticable for the Burdwan Municipality to give effect to his proposal under the present circumstances. The area of these villages is larger than that of Burdwan town, and the Municipality has not sufficient funds at its disposal to lay down pipes there. It may, of course borrow money, but it is not advisable for it to do so. Moreover, the inhabitants of the villages being very poor are not in a position to pay a tax for water.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

CHARU MIHIR,
Dec. 24th, 1895.

25. The *Charu Mihir* of the 24th December cannot support the proposal to alter the time of starting the Narayanganj-Mymensingh night train. It is proposed to start the train from Narayanganj just at evening, so that it may arrive at Mymensingh at 1 A.M. If the proposed change is made, passengers from Goalundo who intend to catch the train at Narayanganj will have either to go a whole day and night without food, or to stop at Narayanganj for one night; and strangers will find themselves taken to Mymensingh in the middle of the night without knowing where to go for shelter. The

writer, therefore, thinks that the proposed arrangement, if made, will lead to the inconvenience rather than to the convenience of passengers. Besides, the alteration proposed was given a trial some four or five years ago, and had to be abandoned because it proved inconvenient to them.

26. The *Vikrampur* of the 26th December draws the attention of the Dacca District Board and the Munshiganj Local Board to the inconvenience and hardship which are suffered by the people of Vikrampur for want of good village roads. Lately some people sustained severe injury by the collapse of a few bamboo bridges and were severely hurt. Steps should be taken to prevent such accidents by replacing bamboo bridges by more durable structures.

VIKRAMPUR,
Dec 26th, 1895.

27. The *Pratihar* of the 27th December says that the embankment policy which was consistently followed by the Government of Bengal since the permanent settlement has been suddenly changed by Government, and the change has been productive of great mischief to the people. It may sound well in theory that embankments are injurious, inasmuch as they accelerate silt-formations in river beds, and, by preventing flood water from spreading all over the country, preclude the possibility not only of the level of the country being raised by the deposit of silt, but also of the fertility of the soil being increased by such deposit. But there can be no question that embankments protect the raiyats' crops and homesteads from present destruction. In pursuance of its new policy, however, Government has completely ceased to look after embankments which are fast falling into ruin, and zamindars, too, are following the Government's example with the greater readiness, as their own condition is growing worse and worse day by day. The occurrence of floods every year would not be a source of much trouble to the people if they could raise two crops a year, but in the western districts, where not more than one crop can be raised in a year, the occurrence of yearly floods is proving simply disastrous. It is not known in how many years the level of the land will be raised, but it is a fact that the river beds are fast silting up in spite of Government's policy not to repair the embankments.

PRATIKAR,
Dec. 27th, 1895.

28. The same paper says that the mouth of the Bhairab, and in fact the whole length of the river bed, is fast silting up, and will, in a few years, be unfit for navigation purposes. The Bhairab has been a good water route for internal traffic, and its silting up for want of money to dredge it will not certainly be to Government's credit.

PRATIKAR.

(h)—General.

29. The *Charu Mihir* of the 24th December says that though Bengal has not yet had any experience of the policy which Sir Alexander Mackenzie means to follow in the administration of the province, the people have been already fully reassured by the few words which have fallen from him, and are beginning to forget the pain and heartburning of the last five years. In fact, Sir Alexander's words have filled the people of Bengal with a hope that the change which will come over the province under his rule will be similar to that which came over whole India when Lord Ripon succeeded Lord Lytton as Viceroy. Although Sir Charles Elliott was not always guided by a narrow policy like that which characterised the latter years of Lord Lytton's administration, and it may even be said that many of the public measures undertaken by Sir Charles' Government were the outcome of noble impulses and failed only through the fault of execution, still, on the whole, the people of Bengal knew no rest or peace of mind under the late Lieutenant-Governor.

SAHACHAR,
Dec. 25th, 1895.

It is strange that a people who can be reassured by a few words of mouth should be called disaffected and disloyal. The writer fails to understand on what grounds the Anglo-Indian press and certain Anglo-Indian officers bring the charge of disloyalty against the Bengalis. He can make bold to say that if ever the British lose their empire in India, it will be not through the disloyalty of the subject people, but owing to the insolence of the Anglo-Indians.

30. The *Sahachar* of the 25th December has the following:—

Sir Alexander Mackenzie.

We welcome Sir Alexander Mackenzie to Bengal. It is for the good of Bengal that God has sent him to this province at the close of his Indian career. May he with the grace of the Almighty fulfil that mission. He has been to many parts of India, and everywhere he has discharged his duties with efficiency. But it will be in Bengal that his abilities will be put to the test. Sir Alexander has all the qualifications which fit a Civilian for the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal. He was in Bengal for many years, and knows the people and their wants and grievances thoroughly. He knows how to make the people entrusted to his care happy. It may therefore be fully expected that he will distinguish himself as a ruler in this province. He received his political education under master statesmen like Lord Ripon and Sir Ashley Eden. The personalities and political views of those masters must be fresh in Sir Alexander's mind, and he has only to tread in their footsteps to achieve success as a ruler.

Sir Alexander has very wise and well-considered views on Local Self-Government. He is fully convinced that, used as rural India has been for long ages to the institution of Local Self-Government in the shape of village communities, Lord Ripon's policy in regard to such Government is bound to achieve success in no long time.

His views on education have our hearty approval. According to him the management of all educational institutions ought to be made over to the people, Government only contributing the necessary money and exercising supervision over the work done. But considering the backward condition of the country, it will take some time to carry the scheme into effect. The new Lieutenant-Governor is a staunch supporter of technical education, for he rightly believes that the material condition of the people will not be improved so long as they cannot improve their industries. He is an advocate of free criticism in the newspapers of all the actions of Government. According to him, officers who cannot bear such criticism are unfit to hold public offices. He is not in favour of a rigorous enforcement of the Arms Act. In fact, Sir Alexander Mackenzie is a thorough statesman and will prove a wise and beneficent ruler. The people of Bengal may hope for much from him. It is to be hoped, therefore, that he will succeed like Sir Steuart Bayley in winning the golden opinion of the people at the close of his career as the Lieutenant-Governor of these provinces.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Dec. 25th, 1895.

31. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 25th December says that the people of Bengal had become impatient and were anxiously

The new Lieutenant-Governor.

longing for a change in their Lieutenant-Governorship, when a change came to them in the accession of Sir Alexander Mackenzie to the Bengal *musnud*. The writer hails Sir Alexander's accession as a grateful shower of rain after scorching heat, as a ray of light after deep darkness. Sir Alexander's whole term of office as a district officer, though a short one, was spent in Murshidabad, and it is hoped that he has not forgotten the people of that district.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Dec. 25th, 1895.

32. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 25th December has the following:—

Sir Alexander Mackenzie.

To our mind Sir Alexander Mackenzie will not follow in the footsteps of Sir Charles Elliott. He has made himself known as Sir Ashley Eden's disciple, and has given it to be understood that he will follow his late master's policy. If he fulfills his word, his policy will be entirely different from that of Sir Charles; nor will he, in that case, have to incur the displeasure of the subject-people like his predecessor. If, indeed, Sir Alexander takes Sir Ashley for his master, then he will displease neither the Hindus, the Musalmans, nor the Anglo-Indians.

The injuries which Sir Charles Elliott did to Bengal are innumerable, and it will take Sir Alexander not less than three years simply to undo the mischief which his predecessor did. He may then avail himself of the remaining two years of his term of office to effect what improvements he can in the administration. In the hands of Sir Charles Elliott Bengal was like a sick man in the hands of a quack doctor, whose treatment aggravated the patient's disease instead of curing it. And Sir Alexander Mackenzie will have to pay the penalty of his predecessor's folly and empiricism.

33. The *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 26th December congratulates

Sir Alexander Mackenzie and the Musalmans of Bengal.

His Honour may take his Musalman subjects under his care, because they have no representatives who can make their wants and grievances known to Government.

DARUSSALTANAT
AND URDU GUIDE,
Dec 26th, 1895.

34. It is in everybody's mouth now-a-days, says the *Vikrampur* of the 26th December, that no officer of Government however small the power that may be vested in him, will do his duty towards the public unless he is lawfully or unlawfully satisfied by them,

Corruption of Government officers and jobberies in Government offices.

and that every such officer commits no end of jobberies in regard to appointments and promotions in his office. The writer will be sincerely glad if these allegations can be proved to be untrue. But considering that such jobberies and oppressions are said to be rampant both in the mufassal and in Calcutta, it is Government's duty to check them, if they really exist, with a strong hand.

VIKRAMPUR,
Dec 26th, 1895.

35. The *Murshidabad Pratinidhi* of the 27th December is sorry to learn that Mr. Kennedy, District Magistrate and Collector of Murshidabad, will soon go home on furlough and will most likely retire after his furlough is over.

Mr Kennedy, District Magistrate and Collector, Murshidabad.

Murshidabad had never before a more just and generous Magistrate than Mr. Kennedy, and in him the Murshidabad people lose a true friend and benefactor. Under his rule the people lived in peace and tranquillity. To redress the wants and grievances of the people was Mr. Kennedy's sole care, and he tried his best to introduce filtered water-supply in the town. The Murshidabad water supply scheme is associated, with his name and it is a misfortune to the Murshidabad people that he is going away before bringing that scheme to a completion. It is earnestly to be expected that they will express their gratitude to Mr. Kennedy and take some steps to commemorate his name.

MURSHIDABAD
PRATINIDHI,
Dec. 27th, 1895.

36. The *Hitavani* of the 27th December says that the extracts given below from official reports will show that the *begar* system prevails in the Sonthal Parganas. The local English officials have expressed their satisfaction at this *begar* work, but Englishmen in England will probably hang down their heads for shame when they come to know the fact.

Begar work in the Sonthal Parganas.

HITAVADI,
Dec. 27th, 1895.

Extract from Mr. Toynbee's Administration Report for 1894-95.

"A very rare, peculiar and pleasing feature in the road administration of the Sonthal Parganas is the fact that nearly 400 miles of village roads were maintained by the villagers without any cost to the District Road Fund"

Extract from Mr. Bernard's Report.

"A unique feature of this district is the amount of work done free of charge on roads throughout the district, but more especially in the Damin i-koh. Coming to the Sonthal Parganas from a Bengal Road Cess District, where no one will take the trouble to put a single spadeful of earth in a hole on the road in front of his house, although there may be a bank of earth a few feet from it, one cannot but be surprised to find that many wide roads which one finds at any rate in the cold weather in very fair order cost nothing to the road fund. Jugal Parganite of Gopikundar, in particular, is an excellent road-maker, and causes the villagers of his pargana to make cuttings and raise embankments which, if paid for, would cost hundreds of rupees, for nothing.

37. The people of Bengal, observes the *Banganivasi* of the 27th December, have been ground down by the rigorous administration of Sir Charles Elliott, and the first and foremost duty of the new Lieutenant-Governor should be to give them peace after a long period of unrest and suffering.

The new Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

BANGANIVASI,
Dec. 27th, 1895.

38. The *Saraswat Patra* of the 28th December does not like to hazard an opinion as to how the rule of the new Lieutenant-Governor will turn out, but judging from his antecedents the writer does not hesitate to say that Sir Alexander Mackenzie will prove a peaceful and beneficent ruler.

The new Lieutenant-Governor

NRASWAT PATRA,
Dec. 28th, 1895.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Dec. 29th, 1895.

39. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 29th December is pleased with the Civil Service Dinner Speech of the new Lieutenant-Governor, and hopes that he will act up to the wise policy he has laid down in his speech. The public are reassured that under Sir Alexander Mackenzie's rule, Bengal will have peace and her people the opportunity to breathe a little more freely. It is only to be hoped that the liberal principles of the new Lieutenant-Governor will not undergo a change when he will come into contact with the conflicting interests of the different communities.

SULABH DAINIK,
Dec. 30th, 1895.

40. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 30th December says that almost every Civilian in Bengal was granted a week's leave under Sir Charles Elliott's orders in order to enable him to be present at the farewell Civil Service Dinner. But the pay of the Civilians for that week will, of course, be paid from the public exchequer. Is not this a misuse of public money?

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

SAHACHAR,
Dec. 25th, 1895.

41. The *Sahachar* of the 25th December says that it is probable that the Jury Bill will not be passed. The Viceroy has completely washed his hands of the measure, and will neither oppose nor support it. If a majority in his Council support it, it will be passed. But it is probable that most of the members in the Council will not press for it.

The Viceroy probably withdrew his support from the Bill in view of the fact that Mr. Justice Prinsep, as President, and Sir Griffith Evans as a Member of the Jury Commission expressed themselves strongly against the introduction of innovations in the jury system like those proposed in the Bill. Lord Elgin is to be praised for his independence in this matter. If His Excellency can show similar independence and strength of mind in all his actions, he can do the Indian people much good, without, however, doing any harm to the interests of the Anglo-Indians or the people of England.

BANGANIVASI,
Dec. 27th, 1895.

42. The *Banganivasi* of the 27th December observes that the Indian copyright law should be amended. Under the existing law an author has no remedy against an infringement of the copyright of his book if he does not choose to go to the High Court. The cost of carrying on a case in the High Court is, however ruinous, and few authors have the means to seek this costly remedy. This being the case, the copyright of a book is in this country infringed with impunity.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

HITAVADI,
Dec. 21st, 1895.

43. The *Hitavadi* of the 21st December refers to the exclusion of the Maharaja Holkar from the Council which has been entrusted with the administration of his State, and asks whether the tour which the Maharaja intends to make over Northern India on the alleged ground of ill-health is in reality a banishment. The condition of the native princes is such that many misgivings naturally arise in one's mind. Will Lord Elgin tarnish his reputation within this short time?

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

CHARU MIHIR,
Dec. 24th, 1895.

44. The *Charu Mihir* of the 24th December regrets the insanitary condition of the Bengal villages and the havoc which is committed among the village population by cholera and malarial fever in particular. The writer suggests the following measures as best calculated to improve village sanitation:—

- (1) supply of good drinking-water by excavating new tanks and re-excavating old ones;

- (2) removal of jungle and filth in order to facilitate free ventilation and purify the atmosphere;
- (3) filling up of foul tanks; and
- (4) supply of good medical aid.

To carry out these measures will require a large expenditure of money and the co-operation of the District Boards, the zamindar community, and the educated people of the province.

45. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 26th December writes as follows:—

The craze for titles.

It is not a few who are eager to obtain titles; and we know of people who have borrowed money at heavy interest in order to secure the title of 'Rai Bahadur' and have not yet been able to pay off their debts. Many people, again, with the same object, have raised money by loan and spent it without grudge in charities approved only by Europeans. Indeed, a man anxious to secure a title feels no hesitation in spending money like water. In France corruption prevailed among the officials in connection with the distribution of titles. Everybody will remember how President Grévy's son-in-law came to grief for taking bribes, and the President, too, was disgraced in the same connection. It is better to sell titles openly. In America titles are openly and publicly sold. The University degree of M. D., for instance, can be purchased there for an insignificant price of something like two or three hundred rupees. Many people have spent money in view of the next distribution of honours on the New Year's Day. But everybody will not, of course, have his hopes fulfilled.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Dec. 26th, 1895.

46. The same paper says that a European soldier belonging to a regiment

A Hindu woman outraged by a European soldier.

on march from Bangalore to Secunderabad committed outrage upon a Hindu woman in the Hindupur taluk. But no complaint was made against the man and he was not punished. Cases like this ought to convince British philanthropists of the necessity of maintaining prostitutes in connection with every regiment of European soldiers in India. It is also to be asked why the officers give their men such license when marching from one station to another.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA.

47. The *Hitavadi* of the 27th December says that the Christian Missionaries have poisoned the happiness of many a family in India. These Missionaries, male and

HIT VADI,
Dec. 27th, 1895.

The Christian Missionaries. female, go from village to village in quest of prey, which they seek among simple, foolish and helpless young people of either sex. They easily beguile such people by their honeyed words and tempting offers. Whenever they come across a likely prey, they run away with him like a tiger. It is not easy to discover the places in which they conceal their prey, and even if the place of concealment can be discovered, it is very difficult to snatch away a prey from their clutches.

The English officials, who are themselves Christians, in many cases assist the wily missionaries. Lately a respectable resident of Poona was grossly insulted by the local Magistrate at the instance of a Christian Missionary. When one sees all this one cannot believe that one is living in the dominions of Queen Victoria. It is a matter of great regret and shame that such oppression should take place under the English Government, which, on the ground of oppression, dispossesses native princes of their States, and which calls the Sultan of Turkey a demon in human form.

48. The *Pratihar* of the 27th December mentions the names of Rani Arnakali Dabi, Rao Jogendra Narayan Rai of Lalgola, and Maulvi Fazle Rabbi, Dewan of His Highness the Nawab of Murshidabad, as deserving of a place in the next New Year's Day honours list.

PRATIKAR,
Dec. 27th, 1895.

Recommendations for the New Year's Day honours.

49. The *Sanjivani* of the 28th December reverts to the cooly case noticed by that paper in its issue of the 26th October last (see Report on Native Papers for the week ending

SANJIVANI,
Dec. 21st, 1895.

A cooly case.

2nd November 1895, paragraph 58). The father of the girl Bidhu Dasi, who was enticed away by a cooly recruiter, submitted a petition to the Deputy

Commissioner of Lakhimpur, Assam. The Deputy Commissioner has thus replied to this petition:—

No. 667E.

To—ISHAN CHANDRA MUNDAL, care of Postmaster, Lakanhate, district Rajshahi (through the Magistrate of Rajshahi).

Dated Dibrugarh, the 13th November 1895.

His application, dated 29th October 1895, about fraudulent recruitment of Bidhu Dasi.

He is informed that the woman Bidhu Dasi states that she executed the labour contract voluntarily at Dhubri, and that she is unwilling to return to her home.

U. S. GREENWOOD,

Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur (Assam).

The Deputy Commissioner's reply is surprising. Bidhu Dasi in her letter to her father (*see* Report on Native Papers for 2nd November 1895, paragraph 58) mourns over her sad lot and requests him to get her released anyhow. It is quite possible that Bidhu Dasi was not presented before the Deputy Commissioner and that another woman must have been made to pass for Bidhu Dasi. The father of the girl has also submitted a petition to the Chief Commissioner, to which no reply has yet been received. It is to be expected that he will have a sifting enquiry instituted into the case.

BANGAVASI,
Dec. 28th 1895.

50. The *Bangavasi* of the 28th December has the following:—

The loss of the Indian's national dignity—its cause.

In his Civil Service Dinner Speech Sir Charles Elliott laid it down as a principle of administration that the Government should never allow soiled official linen to be washed in public; if to satisfy the ends of justice it was necessary to punish a peccant official, the punishment should be meted out in private—without letting the outside public know that it had been administered. The late Lieutenant-Governor has been found fault with for giving expression to what he considered to be the right principle of administration. To our mind, however, Sir Charles Elliott was in the right, and we believe that the principle is a golden principle, not only in the case of the administration of a State, but also in the case of the administration of a society and the management of a home. And it is because we do not know how to keep our secrets that we have lost our national prestige and are looked down upon by our rulers. We are notoriously fond of proclaiming from housetops our national defects, faults, and shortcomings, while we have lost the power of correcting our mistakes and punishing those who infringe the rules and regulations of our society. The truth is we have lost our sense of national dignity—national honour is not to us a sacred trust to be preserved and defended against public calumny. We do not hesitate to calumniate our own countrymen and delineate our society in the blackest of hues. This it is that makes foreigners lose their confidence in us, and teaches them to sincerely hate us and treat us with contempt. That our rulers look down upon us and hate us is entirely due to our fault—to our inability to maintain our national and social dignity. We were treated better, with greater courtesy, and in a more honourable and dignified way by our rulers in the past. It is the impression of some that this change is due to the fact that we now get as our rulers men of a very inferior stamp—men who are low-born—a class of upstarts, that is to say, who are strangers to civility and gentlemanliness. We do not think this to be true. We have lost our national dignity and prestige simply because we ourselves have done our utmost to destroy them.

The fact is that we are sadly unmindful of our own duties, while we are mindful of other people's affairs. We meddle with questions which are not

in our province. We meddle with politics and criticise in season and out of season the policy of the Government without thinking for a moment whether we are doing any earthly benefit to our country and countrymen by our questionable conduct. It is for these reasons that we think that it should be the sole care of the native press to forbear treading upon the forbidden ground of politics and devote its whole energy and attention to the discussion of questions which lie nearer home and affect the more vital interests of the people.

51. The *Chinsura Vartavaha* of the 29th December has the following:—

The British Government in India.

The Indian people are more and more losing their confidence in the British rule every day, and their anxiety for the future is growing with years.

The policy of the Government is becoming more and more inscrutable. Official favouritism, annexation after annexation, and dissension among the people, fanned by the officials, have already affected prejudicially the stability of the British rule. It is extremely doubtful if the rulers of the present day are properly doing their duty by the people. They do no longer care to redress the people's grievances, advance their material prosperity, and establish peace and order in the country. Official tours cost the people a large sum of money every year, but the touring officials have made it a point not to allow them to represent their grievances in their addresses. Is this a wise principle of administration? What is a Government for if it does not try to acquaint itself with the crying wants and grievances of the people? Does the Government exist simply to screw out a revenue? The duty of the Government thus remains far from being fulfilled, and discontent grows and spreads, which bodes no good to the State. The growth of power is, it is true, naturally accompanied by unbounded ambition and an extreme perversity of intelligence. But there must still be some limit to ambition, a line must be drawn somewhere. Must the difference between a native and a foreign rule be really made so very great? We cannot say. But this we see that within the last twenty years the boundaries of the British empire in India have gone on extending. And with this increase of territories there has been brought about a change in the policy of the British Government. There does no longer exist an amicable relation between the rulers and the ruled. There has been created a breach between these two parties and this breach is ever widening. The rulers do no longer look upon the subject people—specially the Hindus—with favour. They do not as before, devote their attention to the internal administration of the country. Justice too is not being properly administered as between natives and Europeans. The murder of natives by Europeans is increasing every day. But the rulers seem to be quite unconcerned and do not make the least effort to put down the evil. The Indian people are patiently bearing their misfortune, but still they are called by their rulers disloyal and seditious. Numerous indeed are the defects and shortcomings of the Government, but the people are by no means responsible for them. It is the Government which is solely responsible for its faults. It is one thing to extend territories and a different thing altogether to administer them properly. The rulers seem to ignore our grievances. The Indian people are proverbially inoffensive, loyal, and law-abiding, and it is not just that the Government should treat them with severity. The English Government is strong and powerful, but this is no reason why it should rule the weak Indian people with a high hand.

52. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 29th December says that the

The prevailing unhealthiness in the country.

prevalence of fever of a malarial type in Calcutta in the present year is a strong proof that fever cannot be checked by the provision of good drainage alone. In the mufassal, besides fever, cholera and small-pox are also raging very violently. Cholera can be checked only by the supply of pure drinking-water, but who is to supply the mufassal people with such drinking-water? In the present year a scarcity of water is already felt everywhere.

53. Referring to the case in which a Brahman married girl of the Punjab

Missionary work in India.

was lately converted to Christianity, the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 30th December says that, though Government is pledged not to give any direct encouragement to the propagation of Christianity, Sir Charles Elliott, the ruler to whose care were entrusted seventy millions of Hindu and Mussalman subjects, publicly encouraged

CHINSURA
VARTAVAHA,
Dec. 29th, 1895.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Dec. 29th, 1895.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Dec. 30th, 1895.

Christian missionaries in their work. But he was never taken to task for his conduct either by the Viceroy or the Secretary of State. Will it be safe for the Government if idle and stupid people construe the attitude of the Viceroy and the Secretary of State not as one of passive sufferance but as one of active encouragement of missionary work with the object of converting Hindus and Musalmans to Christianity? But for cases like the one which has occurred in the Punjab, it is the people themselves who are more to blame than anybody else. Is it not the people themselves who send their children to missionary schools and invite female missionaries to their zannas, and thus afford missionaries opportunities of enticing away girls and converting them?

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Dec. 31st, 1895.

54. The promises made by the Queen, observes the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 31st December, in her Proclamation, which is looked upon by the Indian people as their Magna Charta, have so far been honoured more in the breach than in the observance. The plighted troth of Her Gracious Majesty has almost been systematically broken, not only by the officials in India but also by her English ministers at home. And the regret is that the Queen-Empress herself is unwillingly made a party to this breach of her own promises through her ministers and Parliament. It is, however, a conviction of the Indian people that if the Prince Consort had been living he would not have allowed the Queen to be made a tool of by her ministers and to countenance a line of policy which Her Majesty cannot certainly approve.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,

Offg. Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 4th January 1896.